



DECEMBER, 97

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12



I would like to thank all of you that contributed to the GARZETTE this year. From those contributing articles and stories to those folding and stamping, Thank you. And to anyone reading this GARZETTE, a very Safe and Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Editor - Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



Let me start by wishing each member of the GARS family a safe and happy holiday season. If you're going to be traveling during the holidays, please try to keep an eye out for the other guy and come back to us safe and sound for what promises to be another great year for GARS in 1998.

As we move forward to the new year it is time to elect a new slate of officers, nominations will taken from the floor at the January and February meetings with the elections being held at the February meeting. Like last year, we will not form a nominating committee and will

rely on the membership to make the nominations. My opinion is that this opens up the election process instead of having a committee make a nomination that is then perceived to be the choice of the club. Our elections in 1997 are a good example of this process with contested elections for both President and Vice President.

At the latest executive committee meeting, I took a poll of the officers about who is planning on running again and who is not. I plan to seek a second term as GARS President. I've thoroughly enjoyed my first term and can't say enough about

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## GARS Ham of the Month

Toshikazu (Toshi) Watanabe, AD4ZZ

Phillips, N4JON



Photo by Toshi, AD4ZZ

This month's Ham of the Month feature is full of grade, he moved to the firsts. This is our first DX article and the first done via the internet. Our Ham of the Month is our good friend and GARS member Toshikazu Watanabe - AD4ZZ.

I did give consideration to actually going to Japan and do the interview one on one with Toshi, but K4HS said he'd have to raise my membership dues to about \$1,000.

Toshi was born in Kiryu-shi, Japan in 1964. At

age 7 and in the second grade, he moved to Maebashi-shi, about 60 miles north of Tokyo. At the age of 15, ham radio and Toshi got acquainted. Toshi's technical school was equipped with a club station - JA1YMS. By the time Toshi began high school, in 1982 he had passed what is termed in Japan as his 4th class license and became JN1GEW. His first rig was his FT101ES and a di-

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## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ad4pz@aol.com. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as an unencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

**Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.**

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing The GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in The GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for The GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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## IT'S A TECHNICIANS WORLD?

Via ARRL

Meantime, Technician class hams appear to be on their way to taking over the world of Amateur Radio. At least they are here in the United States.

This not so surprising revelation comes to us by way of a survey of ARRL Volunteer Instructors. It shows that most teach between one and two classes a year and the vast majority of students obtain only their Technician class tickets.

The ARRL survey revealed that classes average eight students. Graduates are 5% Novice, 88% Technician, 5% General, 1% Advanced, and 1% Extra.

No distinction was made in this ARRL survey between the codefree Technician and the Tech Plus license holders, but published statistics show that some 88% all new hams enter as no-code Techs. The numbers also say that very few ever bother to upgrade.

In another League conducted survey, ARRL registered professional school teachers reported that their students' favorite ham radio activities are High Frequency DXing, taking part in licensing classes, radio club activities and VHF and UHF operating. The 108 teachers who returned their surveys say they introduced nearly 8800 students to ham radio.

And there is quite a difference in the way ham radio is introduced in the schools verses the way it's taught in the private sector. The teachers said that about 60% of

their licensing classes prepared youngsters for the Technician license and 40% for the Novice ticket.

Volunteer Instructors and ARRL registered school teachers were polled last spring for these surveys. Adapted from ARRL Letter and FCC and W5YI Licensing Data)

### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

#### Club License Class Statistics:

By Jack Herndon, KS4LS

1	Novice
8	Associate
27	General
38	Tech Plus
53	Advance
70	Extra
110	Tech

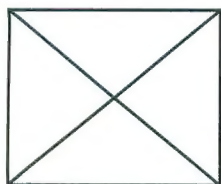
Looking at the chart below can give a nice snapshot of the way GARS and it's member progress and grow as Amateur Radio Operators. Though some of the classes compare equally to the Georgia numbers, there are some noteworthy differences.

GARS appears to be an entity of challenge and desire of advancement. Look at the General class. GARS has only half the percentage of Generals. Could this be because of a desire to 'Advance'. Speaking of 'advance', those numbers are right on with the GA numbers therefore again perhaps the desire to go to Extra Class is at work. GARS EXTRA's is over double the GA numbers and a nice feather in the GARS cap saying GARS is a progressive club of growth and prosperity.

#### GARS Class Distribution Compared to Georgia Statistics Overall

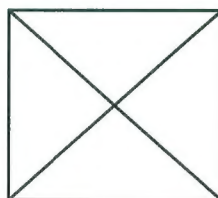
	Extra	Advance	General	Tech +	Tech	Novice	Total
Georgia*	1613	2575	2615	3235	3236	1389	14663
Percent	11%	18%	18%	22%	22%	9%	
GARS**	70	53	27	38	110	1	299
Percent	23%	18%	9%	13%	37%	0.3%	





## Ares SkyWarn

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z  
Gwinnett Co. E.C.



Hopefully we'll have a quite end of the year for Gwinnett Co. ARES/SKYWARN Group. As our first year comes to a close, let's look back on some of the happenings of 1997.

I (KM4Z) became Emergency Coordinator of Gwinnett Co. on 1/1/97. The ARES planning committee combined the ARES and SKYWARN activities into one weekly net. The planning committee included Jeff (KD4GPI) net manager, Tom (KU4CK) Red Cross Liaison, Larry (WT4XX) GARS Liaison, Ike (KE4GYM) roster manager and me. As Ike's duties increased as GARS's President, the roster manager position was passed to John (KE4KPV). As the year rolled on, it became apparent that a couple more Assistant E.C. were needed. In Oct. it was decided to install Larson (KF4HLH) and Mike (KF4HLM) as A.E.C.'s. Larson will be working with Jeff in managing the nets and being principle net control station operator. Mike will be working with Tom in planning training classes and field exercises, such as S.E.T. (Simulated Emergency Test).

Speaking of S.E.T., we had our first one back in March. Remember the simulated tornado touchdown near Gwinnett Mall. We got a first hand chance to use our grid square maps for storm tracking. Then they were several severe weather nets we held during the spring and summer months. Fortunately no major damage occurred during those storms. In June, an apartment fire in Norcross created an opportunity for us to participate with the Gwinnett Red Cross. Mike (KF4HLM) and I handled some property damage traffic for Tom (KU4CK) at the apartment complex. Along came October and with it the national A.R.R.L. Simulated Emergency Test. Our scenario was a search and rescue for a lost child inside Tribble Mill Park. Our total point count for the SET was 185 points. I don't know how that ranks nationwide yet, but will inform you when I do. The last

planned event of the year was the SET conducted by the American Red Cross on Nov. 8th. That event gave us some experience in what's involved with opening a shelter and dealing with evacuated victims.

Another happening this year was a spring trip to the National Weather Service in April. A small group of us went over to a class taught by Ed Ferguson (N4YTR). The class was a requirement in order to operate the NWS ham station and it included a tour of the forecast room and ham station setup. Also a vacancy was filled this year by Steve Strong (KS4EL) as our new Metro Atlanta District Emergency Coordinator. Providing nothing happens between now and Dec. 31st, that's pretty much a wrap-up for 1997.

With the ending of a year marks the beginning of a new year. The Gwinnett Co. ARES/SKYWARN planning committee is already making some plans for 1998. As plans become complete, we'll pass them along so members can do some planning of their own time schedules. I'll let one cat out of the bag, we would like to have a couple of responsible "storm chaser" types who could follow storms as they pass through the county and report real time weather information back to net control. This of course will create a need of a training class for people that are seriously interested in more intense involvement with SKYWARN operations. Be forewarn that this will be time consuming and potentially dangerous voluntary position. So as you see, just mention an item and it grows into a plan and thus, this is how our planning committee works.

Everyone enjoy this holiday season, be ever watchful as to severe weather or other threatening conditions that may prevail and thanks for a very successful year of ARES/SKYWARN activities. See you next year.

Best Regards,  
Lowry Rouse KM4Z

## Happy New Year January Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, KS4LS

03 - KB4WGX	Michael Zawlocki
05 - KE4NJX	Rick Darby
06 - KF4PZZ	Alan Johnston
13 - KF4HFN	Kevin McClure
13 - KN4UO	Ken Parrish
16 - KF4SCB	John Durkin
17 - KF4DRT	Jaehoon Park
18 - AJ4S	Clarence Upthegrove
19 -	Bobi Brooks
19 - KB4AIA	Harley Jones
19 - KE4HEO	Kathy Goodman
20 - W4IA	Ron Davidson
20 - AD4S	Pickett Cummins
20 - KF4BHX	Kim Lewis
20 - KE4PWU	Gwen Darby
21 - KD4KCR	Duane Hanson
22 - W4NZJ	Judson Whatley
22 - KF4GEZ	Jim Reeves
22 - KF4OEP	Anna Marie Wiley
23 - KB7UV	Andy Funk
25 - W4WTC	Terry Cantrell
26 - W4HZV	Temp Titus
26 - N4LEG	Janice Langford
27 - KE4CWI	Robert DiPrima
27 -	Gail Button
28 - KF4RMB	Odelio Banuelos
30 - N4ZP	Jim Larkin
30 - KN4VP	Joel Hitt
31 - KA4LPT	Robin Fearon
31 - NN5C	David Taylor
31 - KC4ZEM	Helen Willey



K4FB - Terry Jones  
 KB4WGX - Michael Zawlocki  
 KE4KRT - William Heaton  
 KF4BUL - Jennifer Clayson  
 KF4OKA - Gordon Anthony  
 KF4PWJ - Jim Richardson  
 KF4UNV - Erik Benner  
 KF4UOC - Anna Torres  
 KF4UPN - Barbara Moon  
 WV5R - Cameron Clayson



## ...The President's Pen

...Continued from page 1

the support from each of the officers, committee chairmen, and club members. Without that support my job would have been much more difficult and GARS would not have had the successful year that we did in 1997.

Larry Osborne, WT4XX has decided that after four years of service as Vice President he will step down. Larry tells me that after the executive committee is formed and up and running he will look for other ways to get involved in club activities. I've been on three of the four executive committees with Larry as VP and I can tell you his contribution to the club have been numerous and invaluable. Larry often served as the "devil's advocate" during discussions of various issues at our executive committee meetings and helped keep us focused on the issue.

Bill Ahls, KE4EIH has also decided to step down as Secretary after serving two years in this office. Bill had done a great job in keeping the executive committee organized, making sure the mail gets to all the right people and providing valuable input to our discussions.

As of this writing, Randy Drescher, K4HS has not decided if he will seek a third term as GARS Treasurer. It should come as no surprise, given Randy's financial background that he has done a superb job in keeping the club's finances in order. Randy has promised an answer on whether or not he will run by the time you read this.

Last, certainly not least, Marty Fowler, KE4MLH has decided that serving as the GARS Activities Manager for two years is enough in that position and has decided that he will run for the office of Vice President. Marty has done a great job with the activities for the club during his terms as evidenced by the number and scope of the events that GARS has been involved with over the past two years.

If you have an interest in one of these positions, I'd like for you to call the person that currently holds that office and get an idea from him what the duties entail. Then at the January meet-

ing, have someone place your name in nomination for the February elections. The contested elections last year were very good for the club and I'd love to see a repeat of them this year. We have many, many talented people in GARS and there's no reason we shouldn't be able to fill another slate of officers easily.

I'm also sure that we will have some of the current committee chairmen decide to step down, run for an office, or move on to a different interest in the club. This means that we will have to fill these positions, so once again, if you see one of these committees that you are interested in, find out what the position entails and let the new executive committee know of that interest.

Speaking of committee chairmen, Don Button, AJ1T has decided to step down as our CW Net Manager for the Tuesday night code practice effective December 31, 1997. Don is not going to disappear on us, he just wants to move on to a different position in the club. You don't have to be a Morse code wizard to fill this position, all you need is a computer, a code program, and the desire and willingness to recruit and organize the net controls for the code net. GARS has always looked on the code practice as one of the services we provide to the ham community and I hope that someone will step forward to pick up this task and keep the net running.

And to close this month, I'll end as I started with wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. I hope to see lots of you at the GARS Christmas party on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## The GARS CookBook

by  
John Sokol, KE4KPV

I have taken on the challenge of spearheading a fund-raiser to benefit our club. This fund-raiser is the creation of a cookbook. I plan to offer this cookbook to all GARS club members. I also plan to offer the book to all of the surrounding Atlanta radio clubs. In fact, if this project evolves as I have dreamt, I will have worldwide sales. What a boost for our club. Not only in the financial sense, but in the publicity arena.

In order to make this truly a club cookbook, I have asked for each of the 300+ members to submit one recipe of their choosing. I have received several, however, not enough to create a book. I have not lost faith in you, the club member. I will take your recipes in person at any club function, by e-mail (ke4kpv@hotmail.com) or snail mail (GARS Cook Book, c/o KE4KPV, PO Box 88, Lilburn, GA 30046).

In the way of a gentle reminder, I will publish one recipe a month in the GARZETTE for your enjoyment.

Thank you, in advance, for your recipes. John Sokol, KE4KPV or the Kitchen Patrol Veteran.

Thank you to our Ham of the Month club reporter for the following recipe. Maybe you can enjoy this one on Christmas morning, just after you have discovered what Santa has left you under the tree.

### 20db over 5-9

#### Ham/Cheese/Mushroom/Ohmlet

3 eggs  
1 cup chopped ham  
1/2 cup grated cheese  
1/4 cup chopped mushrooms  
3 Tbs. chopped onions

Modulate eggs with whisk.  
Load butter in skillet on medium low (50 watts) heat

Pour in eggs.  
Gently circle skillet on stove for 1 minute  
Load remainder of ingredients  
Fold Ohmlet over to one sideband for a minute or two

It's done ... Enjoy  
73 de KE4KPV  
John F. Sokol



## ...GARS Ham Of The Month

...Continued from page 1

pole for 40 and 20 meters. With his English not being as good as he would have liked, he wasn't able to make too many phone contacts, but he was very active on CW and worked many DX stations. Toshi's first contact was with W2NC in August of 1982. Toshi says he then became overwhelmingly interested in the world and amateur radio.

Toshi moved to Atlanta in March of 1991. It's not quite clear to me when Toshi joined GARS or how he even got introduced to our club, but Toshi's own words are a real tribute to the greatness of our club.

Toshi upgraded from novice to advanced while living here and retained his call KE4GXT. He passed his extra in November of 1994, which earned him the call; "AD4ZZ", the very last of the AD call group.

As a ham in Japan, Toshi has enjoyed contesting and has won two local contests. He loves to take part in contests and says that Field Day in Japan is his favorite. Toshi would have been good for a bunch of points had we been lucky enough to have him with us this year. At the moment Toshi is real close

to attaining his Worked All States.

Toshi moved from Georgia to Japan in July of 1995. While in Atlanta he worked for OKI Telecom as an Industrial Engineer. In Japan, he remains with OKI Electric. Toshi is single....but....he's looking for a girlfriend. His older brother of 45 owns a dress shop. They sell wedding dresses, tuxedos and cocktail dresses. Toshi says when he gets married, he'll try and work out a deal with his brother. Quite a "wheeler-dealer" that Toshi is!

Toshi lives with his parents who are in their 70's. He likes to go hiking, fishing, driving his car and skiing.

Toshi's radio gear is incredible. He uses his trusty FT-990, FL7000, TH11DX beam and "Schurr key and Paddle".

Toshi dreams of organizing a DX-pedition some day.

I can't begin to describe what a good feeling it was for me to check my e-mail this morning and see Toshis' reply to my questions that enabled me to put this article together and feature him as Ham of the Month. We all should feel real lucky to have a guy like Toshi in our club. Not only does Toshi remain a loyal member from way over in Japan,

but he very generously contributes to our repeater fund. It's a little too far for Toshi to attend meetings. And it would also take one major amplifier to hear him check in our nets too. I'm sure we'll all think about him and the information that he has just shared with us, at our next meeting. I personally hope someday Toshi will be able to come back and attend a meeting. I'd like to have an eyeball QSO with him. But I may have to be patient and look for a good band opening to Japan. Who knows...maybe with the band conditions improving, I'll be able to answer a CQ from Toshi Watanabe - AD4ZZ.

In closing this Ham of the Month article, I'd like to be able to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe, remember what Christmas is really about and I'll see you next year for the next Ham of the Month article.



Merry Christmas  
Mucho DX  
and  
73 - Karl N4JON

**"I was very impressed with the members of GARS, the meetings and the activities. I enjoyed them. The people in GARS were so friendly. I hope to be able to meet them again sometime soon."**

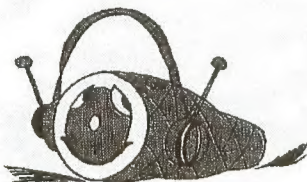


Here is a picture of Thoshi's Workmates/Ham Club Friends

Photo by Toshi, AD4ZZ



## Worked All Cummins Award



Awarded To: AD4PZ Date: 7/15/95 Serial Number: 7

Confirming the completion of two-way communications with the coveted Cummins trio:

Bill Cummins  
W.F. (Bill), K6MYH

Ed Cummins  
Ed, W5CE

J. Pickett  
J. Pickett, AD4S

## Worked All Cummins

by Pickett Cummins, AD4S

In most amateur radio circle, the WAC award is the ARRL award for "Worked All Continent". But around the Cummins' clan it represents the "Worked All Cummins" award. Several GARS members have been able to get this very rare and prestigious award.

The family of William F. Cummins had three sons and no daughters. All three sons eventually became amateur radio operators and have been fairly active over the last 50 years. A little about each of these brothers follows.

William F. (Bill) Cummins, K6MYH. Bill got his class C license in 1947 while he was still in high school in Vicksburg, Miss. His call sign was W5NIQ. When Bill went to Georgia Tech in 1951, his call sign was changed to W4CBS (he would like to have kept that one). In 1956 Bill moved to California where he received K6MYH as his call sign and he has kept it ever since. Bill spent his career at Lawrence Laboratories in Livermore as a nuclear physicist on the plasma fusion project. His specialty was RF and when the experiment was discontinued after more than 30 years, he was responsible for heating the plasma using RF. He has also done consulting work in commercial RF antenna design. Bill is currently retired and lives in Ft.

Bragg, California. He is active on HF and VHF.

Edmund M. (Ed) Cummins, W5CE. Ed got his novice license in 1961 and was issued the call sign of WN5AWO. He upgraded to the conditional license shortly thereafter and received the call sign of WA5AWO. Ed got his extra class license in 1965 when there were no extra privileges attached to that license. In 1977, Ed was issued a new call sign of W5CE during one of the FCC's vanity call sign projects for Extra Class licenses only. There was a period during the 1970's when the FCC would issue a 1x3 call sign if you had held a license before 1960 (or somewhere around then). Ed spent most of his working career with IBM and is now retired in Canton, Georgia. He has equipment operating on both HF and VHF but is not real active right now.

John P. (Pickett) Cummins, Sr., AD4S. Pickett also got his Novice license in 1961 and received the call sign of WN5ALS while living in Hattiesburg, Miss. He upgraded to the General Class license shortly thereafter and received the call of WA5ALS. Pickett received the call sign of WA4TCX when he was transferred to

Atlanta in 1964. When Brother Ed got his new call sign in 1977, Pickett knew he had to upgrade to Extra in order to maintain the status quo. (Ed and Pickett are identical twins). In 1978, Pickett upgraded to extra and received the call sign, AD4S that he holds today. Pickett spent his career with Sears, Roebuck and finished 35 years with that company as one of the founders of Discover Card. Pickett is retired and lives in Lawrenceville. He is active on most all bands and modes and has three complete operating positions at his home in Lawrenceville and his weekend place at Lake Lanier. He is currently trying to develop his mobile CW skills. Pickett has been a member of GARS since 1992 and served as club Secretary in 1993.

So back to the WAC award. For many years, the Cummins brothers talked and laughed about issuing the WAC award. The only requirement for this award was having obtained a QSL card from each of the brothers. (They have identical cards). With the help of Joe Biddle, AD4PZ, the WAC award was finally produced in 1994 and has been available since that time. This is not a particularly easy achievement considering the location of the West Coast brother and the infrequent activity of another. Fortunately, Bill has children living in the Atlanta area so he does get back here to visit from time to time. On one occasion recently, the brothers conducted a "CXPEdition" on the GARS repeater and were able to make a number of WAC awards.

Unfortunately, there is no operating pattern that you can follow to get the WAC award, but when Bill is in town, there will probably be another opportunity to get your own "Worked All Cummins" award.

### GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Herndon, KS4LS** and request to be added to the list.

Send to: [ks4ls@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ks4ls@ix.netcom.com)



## The Radio Shack WX200 Weather Station

by  
Pat Kelly, KE4IKC

I have always had a more than passing interest in meteorology, and now that I am a member of ARES, a good excuse to buy a weather station. I had often looked at the Davis Instruments or Peet Brothers offerings, but the problem there is that by the time you add the outdoor humidity sensors and rain gauges to their basic stations, your outlay was over 600 bucks! Then Radio Shack teased us with a new item in their 1997 catalog (out in August of 1996): a weather station, complete with outdoor humidity sensor and rain gauge, for 300 bucks, or half the price of the other two. I ran to get one, only to find out it was "not available yet". To make a long story short, it shipped sometime in August 1997, and I finally got one in September. After playing with it for a month or so, here is a brief review of the hardware. The station comes with "AccuWeather for Windows" software, which I have no intention of using. All of the figures and specifications given here come out of the manual for the station.

The station consists of three remote sensor modules, connector module, console, and a 12VDC wall wart for power. The console contains 8 AAA cells for backup. The backup will actually keep the station running, not just preserve memory, for up to 36 hours with fresh alkaline cells. The display has two four-digit number readouts, a compass rose for wind direction, a barometric pressure trend indicator, some icons to present the weather "forecast" for the next 24 to 36 hours (based on barometric pressure), and eight icons across the top to display the currently selected display mode. The modes are time/date, temperature, humidity, dew point, barometric pressure, wind, wind chill, and rain. Different units can be selected for each mode; temperature can be displayed in degrees Celsius or Fahrenheit, for example. There are 10 keys on the console to select the mode and to view various memories for high and low

readings. The console also has a standard (believe it or not!) DB-9 serial connector for sending data to a PC.

The remote sensors consists of the rain gauge, temperature/humidity probe, and wind speed/direction sensor. The rain gauge is the standard "tipping bucket" type, sending a pulse back to the console for each millimeter of precipitation, limiting its resolution to four hundredths of an inch. The wind sensor consists of an anemometer with a magnet that passes over a Hall effect sensor once per revolution, and a wind vane attached to a 360 degree potentiometer. Display resolution is one-tenth miles per hour wind speed, and 1 degree direction. Other units can be selected if desired. The temperature/humidity sensor has sold state sensors located in a black plastic housing, which caused some problems (more on that later). The display resolution is one-tenth degree temperature, and one percent relative humidity. The wind chill and dew points are rounded to the nearest degree. The remote sensors all have permanently attached 30 foot cables, with RJ11 (telephone) type connectors. These cables all plug into the connector module, which must be mounted indoors. There is some active circuitry in the connector module, so if you do opt to mount it outdoors, you will have to provide some protection. From the connector module there is a single 10 foot cable with RJ45 connectors to the console. The cable lengths are said to be fixed and non-extendible, although the modular connectors would make it a simple matter to extend them, albeit with possible degradation in accuracy. The console has internal sensors for indoor temperature/humidity and barometric pressure. The pressure resolution is 1 millibar, or 3 hundredths of an inch.

The serial port outputs data at 9600 baud, 8-none-1 format, every ten seconds, with a smaller data string 5 sec-

onds later. The wind data is updated every 5 seconds, most everything else every ten seconds, except the pressure which is updated every 15 minutes. I have deciphered most of the relevant information from the data stream, and will be glad to pass it on to anyone who is interested. I posted what I had found to the APRS SIG on TAPR, and asked the APRS authors when the WX200 would be supported. Keith Sproul responded that he would be working to add it to MAC and WINaprs immediately; Bob Bruninga responded that it would be sometime after DCC before he would add it to DOSaprs. It would be relatively easy to write a program to output APRS weather data and display current readings in a useful format without having to scroll through the various displays, and I intend to do so "real soon now".

The only real problem I have had with the station was with the outdoor temperature sensor. Its black cover made it very sensitive to radiant energy. During the day it would read up to 8 degrees higher than another thermometer, even though they agreed at night. Wrapping the sensor in aluminum foil cured that problem. Overall, I have been quite satisfied with the station, and would buy it again. It doesn't have all the resolution of the Davis or Peet Brothers stations, but then it costs half of what they cost. Or did, anyway. One other nice side effect of an affordable weather station on the market: I saw an ad in the current EARTH magazine advertising a complete (with humidity and rain sensors) Davis station for \$495. Ain't competition wonderful!

Check out Davis Instruments at <http://www.davisnet.com/weather.htm>, and Peet Brothers at <http://www.peetbros.com/>. Radio Shack had no information about the WX200 on their web site the last time I checked.

Pat Kelley, KE4IKC  
[pkelley@hayes.com](mailto:pkelley@hayes.com)



## GARS Tech Fest

By Kevin Berry, KF4RMA

What's a GARS Tech Fest? That's exactly what I want YOU to tell me! This gathering, scheduled for Saturday January 17, will be a place for Hams, and anyone else who's interested in our hobby, to learn more about it. We're going to do our level best to pack as much into this one day event for fun and learning.

Do you have lots of experience in some aspect of Ham Radio that you're willing to share with others? Can you use some help learning the skills necessary to enjoy our hobby? I know many of our members have interesting tales to tell about their interesting expeditions and scapades involving Ham Radio. I'm looking for volunteers to help make this event another GARS success story! Here are some ideas from a limited brain storming session; please contact me if feel you can sponsor an activity around one (or more) of these ideas. (If you have other ideas to add to the list, I'd like to hear that too!)

### Ideas for the Tech Fest presentations & activities:

HF Tips & Techniques  
Soldering (I burn a foot off the end of every piece of coax I use!)

ATV  
Space communications (satellite, space shuttle, earth-moon-earth)  
Packet radio & digital communications  
Antenna building workshop  
Antique radios  
Keying techniques (from straight keys to Vibroplex through electronic keyers)  
Mastering CW  
Radio mathematics  
Radio control  
Home brewing (radios)  
ARES  
Net Control training  
Logging (manual & computerized)  
QSL card contest, awards for DX-est, prettiest, ugliest, most, spelling errors  
The elements of a good QSL Card and how to make 'em on your computer.  
Using paging features available on most VHF/UHF equipment

Cross-band repeating, personal repeaters  
Passing traffic the official way  
Microwave  
Mobile HF  
Military satellite communications demo  
GPS/APRS  
I also need help with some other, perhaps more challenging, areas:

Other attractions to help bring 'em in:  
Food (breakfast or lunch [or maybe both])  
Door prizes  
Vendor displays literature & give-aways

#### Advertising:

#### GARZETTE

Notify other Ham clubs (perhaps involve their members as mentors)  
News media (papers, T.V., QSL, etc.)  
Setup/cleanup crew  
Power, A/V, supplies manager  
Mentors/presentors/demonstrators  
secure a phone line for internet access

This is an ambitious project and lots of participation will make it a big success.

Please let me know if you can help!

73! KF4RMA, Kevin Berry

## NEVADA HAMS GET A BETTER DEAL Via ARRL Letter

Glenn Roberts, KU7Z, says that, for years, hams in Boulder City, Nevada, have been limited to an antenna height of 35 feet. Last spring, with guidance from the ARRL, hams there submitted what Roberts called "a very detailed and well documented petition" asking for a revision in the antenna code to allow a maximum tower height of 70 feet.

"We had been working closely with city officials ever since, to get this code revised," he says. On November 25, the City Council voted unanimously to approve a new code allowing antennas up to 70 feet tall.

"Persistence paid off!" Roberts concluded.

Anyone Remember what we here in Gwinnett County went through with our own Tower Battle?  
- Ed

## Contest Corner

John Sokol, KE4KPV

I would like to introduce a new article to the GARZETTE. I am not a contesteer, but some day I am going to get active in that part of the "ham world". I have heard many people talk up the fun and enjoyment of contesting, so I felt I would provide what information I have gathered or obtained regarding the upcoming contests. In each issue, I will try to provide the next 6 weeks of contest information, so please expect some duplication from month to month. I will provide from mid current month to end of next month. I will not provide the rules for each contest. If you are interested in the rules for a specific contest, please contact me, and I will find a way to get them to you.

If you have other sources for contests, please let me know. I will gladly add them to my resources.

From the ARRL Bulletin, upcoming contests are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Contest</u>	<u>Results Appear in:</u>
Dec 5-7	1997 AARL 160-meter/CW only	April 1998 QST
Dec 13-14	1997 ARRL 10-meter/ CW & Phone	July 1998 QST
Jan 1	Straight Key Night/ CW (Duh??)	April 1998 QST
Jan 3-4	ARRL RTTY Roundup/ RTTY	August 1998 QST
Jan 17-19	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	June 1998 QST



## October Meeting Minutes

by Bill Ahls, KE4EIH - Secretary

Elected officers in attendance: President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Vice President Larry Osborne, WT4XX; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer, and Activities Manager, Marty Fowler, KE4MLH.

President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, opened the November 20, 1997, meeting at approximately 7:35 PM at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Introductions were made by about 65 attendees.

Ike opened the business portion of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as presented in the to be read Garzette. The Treasurer report was approved as presented by Ike. General announcements were made and the idea of a "Techfest" was discussed. Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, volunteered to be the Techfest coordinator.

Membership Committee presented 10 applicants for membership in GARS. Motions were made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of GARS are: Terry Jones, K4FB, Michael Zawlocki, KB4WGX, William Heaton, KE4KRT, Jennifer Clayson, KF4BUL, Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA, Jim Richardson, KF4PWJ, Erik Benner, KF4UNV, Anna Torres, KF4UOC, Barbara Moon, KF4UPN, and Cameron Clayson, WV5R.

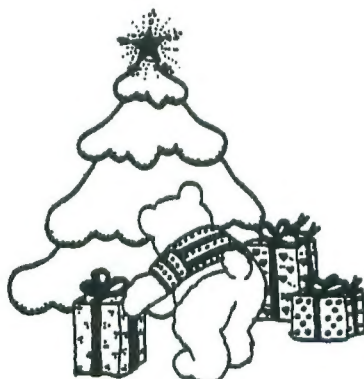
GARS is expecting you at the Christmas Party, December 12, \$15 for single and \$25 for a couple. You may send a check to the GARS PO box. Make reservations with John and Suzanne Farr.

The program tonight was on disaster relief and clean-up aid and effort presented by Terry Jones, K4FB, and Jim Richardson, KF4PWJ, of the Georgia Baptist Relief. The discussion was accompanied by video of helping neighboring areas and states. Our K4FHLH was spotted in the video helping communicate. Hurricane Fran was the

group's first communication effort and they get calls from all over the country as needs are made known. Initial training is required to help with the group, so one must be certified with a later commitment for more advanced training as can be scheduled. The program was very worthwhile and the interest was high. The next training is January 9 and 10 but the February 6 and 7 time is a short drive to Calvary Baptist in Covington.

Marty, KE4MLH, will announce a date for the Christmas Santa outing at a local hospital if we can get approval from the hospital. Listen to the net for announcements. The next fund raiser may be our helping with a local regional dog show Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 for Friday to Sunday to direct parking. We will need five volunteers each day. Other volunteers are needed for net control and code practice on the Tuesday Nets. The January meeting we will have a fox hunt. Bring two meter HT and foil.

John Kemker, KF4MZD, presented the details to GARS for the six meter repeater as previously discussed by the executive committee. This will be a long term activity over six to ten months for the involvement of many people. The motion was made and seconded to authorize the allocation of funds and resources as available to build, put on the air, and maintain the six meter repeater. The membership present tonight unanimously approved the project. The funds are not presently available for the project, but will be used as generated, over time as the activity progresses.



## GARS Officers 1997-1998

### President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

### Vice President

Larry Osborne, WT4XX (770)513-2799

### Secretary

Bill Ahls, KE4EIH (770)279-7044

### Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

### Activities Manager

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH (770)682-5789

## Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

## COMMITTEES

### Membership Chairman

Jack Herndon, KS4LS (770)995-0438

### Publicity Chairman

John Sokol, KE4KPV (770)931-3235

### Newsletter Editor

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

### License Trustee

J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S (770)339-9231

### Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

### TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

### Contest Manager

Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW (770)476-5718

### Net Manager

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI (770) 736-7158

### CW Net Manager

Don Button, AJ1T (770) 476-2432

### Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

### Field Day

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

### Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (770)449-0369

### Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, KR4KT (770)985-8125

### Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-3069

### Christmas Party Chairman

Suzanne Farr, (770)279-8711

### Digital Radio Chairman

John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

### HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Don Ennest, KS4WR (770)923-4851

### DXCC Checker

Frank Deak, AF4Y (770)978-6546

♦ ♦ ♦



## Arizona Jammer Must Pay Fine

Meanwhile, hams in and around Phoenix, Arizona have learned that a man fined by the FCC for malicious interference and other rules violations has finally agreed to pay up. He is Timothy Harold Hoffman and in 1996 he was ordered to pay \$6000 for repeated violations, including interference to local repeaters.

The violations were called to the Commission's attention by the Arizona Repeater Association's ARRL sanctioned Local Interference Committee. After investigation, Hoffman was cited for five specific violations. These included transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies without a valid operator or station license, and willfully interfering with radio communications.

But, it was not easy to get action against Hoffman. According to Lance Halley, KW7LH, it took a multitude of long distance calls by the committee, support from Commission personal, input from Congress, and

even the White House, to get a Notice of Forfeiture and a federal court judgment in the case.

(Via Arizona Repeater Assn.)

## BUSTED PIRATE BROADCASTER

A well-known ham who thumbed his nose at the FCC was among those caught up in a Tampa, Florida, sweep by federal agents to shut down unlicensed broadcasting operations there. L. Douglas "Doug" Brewer, KC4HAZ, a General licensee of Temple Terrace, Florida, was detained when armed agents moved in to close down the pirates and confiscate equipment. Brewer is the trustee of several Amateur Radio repeaters in Tampa.

Brewer, 43, operated "The Party Pirate" from his home on 102.1 MHz. He told reporters that he was awakened November 19 at 6:30 AM by armed US marshals who handcuffed him. According to news reports, federal agents seized equipment from his home studio and from a remote broadcasting van that carried a "102.1 FM Pirate Radio" logo. They also dismantled a 150-foot tower. US marshals trucked away the equipment in a rental vehicle as Brewer looked on.

Known on the air as "Craven Moorehead," Brewer is said to have taunted FCC officials on and off the air and has refused to pay a \$1000 FCC fine. Brewer has hinted that he plans to return to the airwaves. The Party Pirate was the subject of an article earlier this year in The Wall Street Journal. Brewer's Web site includes pictures of FCC agents taking field strength readings outside his house.

Via ARRL

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**FT-11R/41R**

2M 440mHz  
• 150 Mem. Channels  
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• Compact & back lit keypad

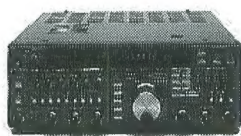
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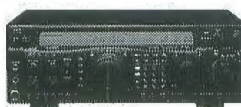
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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

## First Tuesday

## Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd,  
Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by  
meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

## First Tuesday

## Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta.  
Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

## First Wednesday

## HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta,  
Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

## First Thursday

## N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward  
Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In -  
147.225(+)

## Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford  
Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting  
is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

## Second Wednesday

## North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road,  
Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In -  
145.47(-)

## Second Thursday

## Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting  
at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

## Second Saturday

## East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at  
10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

## 3rd THURSDAY

## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins  
at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



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Visit **GARS** On The World Wide Web

<http://www.gars.org>

Up to date information on club activities,  
officers, committees, announcements,  
THE GARZETTE Online, and much more.

Email suggestions for additions to  
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# THE GARZETTE

December, 97

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on January 15 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

GARS CELEBRATING 20  
YEARS

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)

Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364  
Johnson High School LARC VE  
3305 Poplar Springs Roads-

1st Saturday - 9:00AM

George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496  
N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM

Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC

Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC

Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56  
Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,  
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM

**GARS W5YI-VEC**  
**Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362**  
**St. John Neumann Church**  
**801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks**  
**Trickum Rd, Lilburn**  
**Headphones Provided!**

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.